

Remarks

The amendments to the specification correspond to the amendment filed on April 15, 2005 (i.e., in the international phase of International Patent Application No.

PCT/JP2004/009383) under Japanese Patent Law, Article 11 of the regulations concerning international application through Patent Cooperation Treaty (corresponding to PCT Article 34(2)(b)). Each of the amendments to the specification is a correction of an erroneously described nomenclature of a compound.

With respect to the amendment at page 375, line 12 of the specification and the amendment at page 375, lines 13-14 of the specification, supports therefor are as follows.

The amendment at page 375, line 12 is to change "dibutyltin di(5-methylhexide)" to --dibutyltin di(5-methylhexyloxide)--. On the other hand, the amendment at page 375, lines 13-14 is to change "1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-di(5-methylhexy)distannoxane" to --1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-di(5-methylhexyloxy)distannoxane--.

As seen from the title reading "production of dibutyltin dialkoxide" appearing at page 373, line 16 of the specification and the description reading "dibutyltin dialkoxides were

produced as follows" appearing at page 373, lines 17-18 of the specification, in Example 15, dibutyltin dialkoxides are produced in a step which is described at page 373, line 16 to page 375, line 14 of the specification (hereinafter, this step is referred to as "preliminary step") (the "dibutyl" in the term "dibutyltin" means "two or more butyls"). The produced dibutyltin dialkoxides are used in step (1) which is performed after the preliminary step (see page 375, line 16 to page 376, line 19 of the specification).

In the preliminary step, dibutyltin dialkoxides are produced from dibutyltin oxide and an alcohol (specifically 5-methyl-1-hexanol) (see page 373, lines 19-23 of the specification). (The fact that a dibutyltin dialkoxide is produced from dibutyltin oxide and an alcohol is also described, for example, at page 65, lines 11-14 of the specification.)

Two types of the compounds produced in the preliminary step are described in the paragraph (appearing at page 375, lines 9-14 of the specification) containing the portions concerning the amendment at page 375, line 12 of the specification and the amendment at page 375, lines 13-14 of the specification. These two compounds should be dibutyltin dialkoxides.

In the portion concerning the amendment at page 375,

line 12, the compound which should be a dibutyltin dialkoxide is described as "dibutyltin di(5-methylhexide)". However, a compound having such a nomenclature cannot be a dibutyltin dialkoxide. The dibutyltin dialkoxide should correctly be described as "dibutyltin di(5-methylhexyloxide)".

Also, in the portion concerning the amendment at page 375, lines 13-14, the compound which should be a dibutyltin dialkoxide is described as "1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-di(5-methylhexy)distannoxane". However, a compound having such a nomenclature cannot be a dibutyltin dialkoxide. The dibutyltin dialkoxide should correctly be described as "1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-di(5-methylhexyloxy)distannoxane".

In this connection, it should be noted that the correct compounds "dibutyltin di(5-methylhexyloxide)" and "1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-di(5-methylhexyloxy)distannoxane" (which are used in step (1) performed after the preliminary step) are enumerated as examples of organometal compounds which can be used in step (1) of the method of the present invention.

With respect to "dibutyltin di(5-methylhexyloxide)", this compound is described as an example of an organometal compound represented by formula (1) appearing at page 45 of the specification. Specifically, at page 53, lines 14-15 of the specification, there is a description reading "dibutyltin

diheptyloxide (and isomers thereof)". One of the isomers of dibutyltin diheptyloxide is the above-mentioned dibutyltin di(5-methylhexyloxide).

With respect to "1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-di(5-methyl-hexyloxy)distannoxane", this compound is described as an example of an organometal compound represented by formula (2) appearing at page 46 of the specification. Specifically, at page 59, lines 24-25 of the specification, there is a description reading "1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-diheptyloxy-distannoxane (and isomers thereof)". One of the isomers of 1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-diheptyloxydistannoxane is the above-mentioned 1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-di(5-methylhexyloxy)di-stannoxane.

From the above, it is apparent that the amendment at page 375, line 12 of the specification and the amendment at page 375, lines 13-14 of the specification are supported by the specification.

With respect to the amendment at page 380, line 4 of the specification and the amendment at page 380, lines 4-5 of the specification, supports therefor are as follows.

The contents of the amendment at page 380, line 4 and the amendment at page 380, lines 4-5 are the same as those of the amendment at page 375, line 12 and the amendment at page

375, lines 13-14, respectively.

In step (3) of Example 15 (see page 378, line 16 to page 380, line 8 of the specification), the residual liquid obtained in step (2) is reacted with an alcohol (specifically, 5-methyl-1-hexanol) to form organometal compounds and water.

Two types of the organometal compounds formed are described in the paragraph (appearing at page 380, lines 2-5 of the specification) containing the portions concerning the amendment at page 380, line 4 and the amendment at page 380, lines 4-5. As apparent from the description at page 380, lines 6-8 of the specification, the liquid containing the two organometal compounds is recycled to step (1). Therefore, the two organometal compounds should be the same as the above-mentioned two organometal compounds (i.e., dibutyltin di(5-methylhexyloxide) and 1,1,3,3-tetrabutyl-1,3-di(5-methylhexyloxy)distannoxane") which are produced in the preliminary step and used in step (1).

From the above, it is apparent that the amendment at page 380, line 4 of the specification and the amendment at page 380, lines 4-5 of the specification are supported by the specification.

The amendments to the claims have been made only for removing the multiple-multiple dependency expressions in the

claims.

In the above-mentioned amendments, no new matter has been introduced.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully Submitted,

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